

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-8, 10-19, 21-30, 32, 33, 49, 50 and 59-61 will be pending. Claims 9, 20, 31, 34-48 and 51-58 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 59-61 are added.

The undersigned notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7, 9, 10, 18, 20, 21, 29, 31 and 32 contain allowable subject matter. The remaining claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,130,073). While the undersigned does not agree with this ground of rejection, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 9, claim 12 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 20 and claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 31 in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

New independent claims 59, 60 and 61 represent the combinations of original independent claim 1 plus dependent claim 7, original independent claim 12 plus dependent claim 18, and original independent claim 23 plus dependent claim 29, all of which combinations were indicated as allowable in the Official Action. Accordingly, all of the independent claims now include subject matter that has been indicated as allowable, and therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application and/or divisional application to pursue the unamended claims and/or those which were cancelled as a result of the restriction requirement.

All of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response or the application in general, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (540) 361-1863.

Respectfully submitted,
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